

263 CMR 4.00: APPROVAL OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT TRAINING PROGRAMS

Section

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4.01: Purpose

The purpose of 263 CMR 4.00 is to establish standards and procedures for the approval of physician assistant training programs by the Board of Registration of Physician Assistants and the determination of whether graduates of such training programs are eligible for registration to practice as physician assistants in the Commonwealth pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, §§ 9C through 9K and 263 CMR 3.00.

4.02: Definitions

For purposes of 263 CMR 4.00, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

AMA - means the American Medical Association, 515 North State Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60610.

Approved Program - means a program for the education and training of physician assistants which has received a Certificate of Program Approval from the Board pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 9K and 263 CMR 4.00.

Board - means the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Physician Assistants.

CAHEA - means the Council on Allied Health Education and Accreditation of the American Medical Association.

Certificate of Program Approval - means official notification of approval of a program for the education and training of physician assistants, issued by the Board pursuant to M.G.L. c. 112, § 9K and 263 CMR 4.00.

Collaborating Organizations - means the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, the American College of Surgeons, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, the American Association of Physician Assistant Programs, and such other organizations as may be identified by the AMA as collaborating in the adoption of the "Essentials and Guidelines of an Accredited Educational Program for the Physician Assistant" or the "Essentials of an Accredited Educational Program for the Surgeon's Assistant".

Physician Assistant - means a person who meets the requirements for full or temporary registration as set forth in M.G.L. c. 112, § 9I and 263 CMR 3.00, and who may provide medical services appropriate to his or her training, experience and skills under the supervision of a registered physician.

Physician Assistant Training Program - means any program for the education and training of physician assistants which is accredited by CAHEA.

4.03: Graduation from Approved Program Required for Registration

(1) No person may obtain a full or temporary certificate of registration from the Board to practice as a physician assistant in the Commonwealth, pursuant to 263 CMR 3.00, unless he or she is a graduate of a physician assistant training program which is or was an approved program as of the date of his or her graduation from said program.

4.03: continued

(2) For purposes of 263 CMR 4.03(1), a physician assistant training program which was previously accredited by CAHEA, but which is either no longer in existence or no longer accredited by CAHEA, will be considered an "approved program" for the period of time for which it was accredited by CAHEA for purposes of determining the eligibility of its graduates for registration to practice as physician assistants in the Commonwealth pursuant to 263 CMR 3.00.

4.04: Application for Certificate of Program Approval

(1) An application for a Certificate of Program Approval for a physician assistant training program shall be made on behalf of said program by the chief administrative officer or sponsor of said program. Said application shall contain:

- (a) A letter signed by the dean or director of the physician assistant training program, or by the chief executive officer of the facility or organization which sponsors or operates said physician assistant training program, requesting the issuance of a Certificate of Program Approval for said physician assistant training program;
- (b) A certified copy of a current and valid letter of accreditation issued to said physician assistant training program by CAHEA, or other written proof satisfactory to the Board verifying that the physician assistant training program is fully accredited and in good standing with CAHEA; and
- (c) Such other information as the Board may reasonably require regarding the identity of the applicant and the nature and scope of the training program.

(2) Applicants shall be notified in writing of any deficiencies in their applications. If the requested additional information is not received by the Board within 90 days of the date of the applicant's receipt of that written notice, the application shall be denied by the Board.

4.05: Issuance of Certificate of Program Approval

(1) An application for a Certificate of Program Approval shall be granted, and a Certificate of Program Approval shall be issued, only upon a finding by the Board that the application is complete and that the physician assistant training program in question is fully accredited and in good standing with CAHEA.

(2) A Certificate of Program Approval issued to a physician assistant training program shall be valid for a period of time which shall be set by the Board, but which shall not extend beyond the date of expiration of said training program's CAHEA accreditation period. Said Certificate of Program Approval shall contain the name of the physician assistant training program to which it is issued, the date on which the Certificate was issued, the date on which said Certificate expires, the signature of the chairperson of the Board, and such other information as the Board may deem appropriate.

4.06: Termination of Program Approval

The Board may rescind, cancel or otherwise terminate a Certificate of Program Approval issued pursuant to 263 CMR 4.05 whenever the Board, by a majority vote, determines that:

- (1) The physician assistant training program in question is no longer accredited by CAHEA;
- (2) The physician assistant training program in question has ceased to operate; or
- (3) The physician assistant training program in question no longer meets such additional standards or criteria as the Board may hereafter establish by regulation.

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

263 CMR 4.00: M.G.L. c. 112, §§ 9F and 9K.